



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* KANSAS CITY

August 10, 2016

Statement on Community Engagement

The Kansas City Fed has a [long record](#) of engaging with community groups.

Two years ago, the Kansas City Fed learned through an online posting about the Center for Popular Democracy's interest in meeting with President Esther George at its annual Jackson Hole Economic Symposium. Bank staff contacted CPD leadership and initiated a two-hour meeting at the Jackson Lake Lodge before the 2014 Symposium. During this meeting, participants shared their personal stories of the challenges they faced in the labor market.

Since that time, the Kansas City Fed has continued to initiate conversations, meetings and programming for CPD and its Fed Up affiliates within the Tenth Federal Reserve District. Examples of ongoing engagement include a meeting with Sunflower Community Action of Wichita, Kan., and Communities Creating Opportunity of Kansas City, Mo., to develop programming and to act on the concerns of these groups.

Since 2001, the Kansas City Fed has had a [Community Development Advisory Council](#), composed of leaders from nonprofits, universities, financial institutions, businesses and community organizations. This group meets with Kansas City Fed President Esther George to offer insight on economic and community development issues from around the region. The Kansas City Fed is committed to a diverse [Board of Directors](#) at its Kansas City head office and branches in Denver, Oklahoma City and Omaha. The Bank's commitment to diversity is also highlighted in its [2015 Annual Report on the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion](#).

Additional community engagement by the Kansas City Fed has included:

- Meeting with members of Sunflower Community Action of Wichita on March 28-29, 2016. Kansas City Fed President Esther George and Community Development staff discussed labor market challenges, her role in policy and her outlook on economic conditions with members of Fed Up in this public meeting.
 - Center for Popular Democracy announcement: <https://populardemocracy.org/news-and-publications/working-class-black-latino-communities-wichita-challenge-kansas-city-fed>
 - Associated Press report: <http://cjonline.com/news/2016-03-29/activists-lobby-kansas-city-federal-reserve-official-interest-rates#>
 - Television report from KAKE-Wichita: <http://www.kake.com/story/32139745/on-your-side-consumer-alert-what-economic-recovery>



- On March 7, 2016, the Kansas City Fed hosted a forum on expanding entrepreneurship in African American communities. More than 150 small business owners and community leaders attended the event.
 - More information available at <https://www.kansascityfed.org/publications/community/connections/articles/2016/03-30-2016/entrepreneurship-economic-development-strategy>
- Economic Avenue is a grassroots-led community economic development program in northeast Kansas City, Kan. The program puts the power to create change in the hands of the community by forming a local leadership council of residents, neighborhood leaders, nonprofit leaders, church leaders and business owners to address housing, employment and business development challenges. To support the initiative, the Kansas City Fed helped evaluate community conditions that led to measureable objectives; provided facilitator and program development guidance to community leaders; and connected the community to organizations and funders who can provide resources and support for sustainability.
 - More information available at <https://www.kansascityfed.org/community/econave>
- Labor and Community Leader Roundtables are hosted annually across the District to build mutually beneficial relationships, enhance awareness of the Federal Reserve and to discuss economic and community development issues. 2016 community roundtables: April 13, Oklahoma City; May 20, Kansas City; August 9, Omaha; and, September 27, Denver. Labor leader roundtables: May 16, Kansas City; May 26, Denver; October 12, Oklahoma City

For the remainder of 2016, the Kansas City Fed has programs and events planned to provide substantive solutions to the challenges facing communities across its district. These include:

- National Conference: Exploring Financial Resiliency and Mobility, September 7-8, 2016: This conference will examine a variety of issues that affect the financial wellness of low- to moderate-income communities, including health, housing, jobs, education and consumer finance. More information available at <https://www.kansascityfed.org/events/2016/natl-conf-fin-res-9-7-2016>
- Banking and the Economy: A Forum for Minority Bankers, September 28-29, 2016: The Kansas City Fed will host a forum for minority bankers that will address the economy,



the U.S. payments system and career and leadership strategies. More information is available at <https://www.kansascityfed.org/community/events/minority-bankers-forum> .

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